

and other enemies—thus showing them we are interested and want them for neighbors.

McGregor, Iowa.

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## AN UNINTENTIONAL BIRD PRESERVE.

BY C. W. G. EIFRIG.

Some twenty-eight years ago Mr. Edward C. Waller, of River Forest, bought a tract of a hundred acres of land in the northern part of this village. This is now one of the finest suburbs of Chicago, being separated from the metropolis by Oak Park, another beauty spot in the outskirts of the great city, but at that time largely a more or less swampy prairie. Although bought for the sole reason to be later on sold again, Mr. Waller immediately started to improve the land by planting great quantities of fine shrubs and trees on it, in straight lines, to border the streets that would later have to cross the tract, and in irregular groves and clumps. Nearly all native species of shrubs and trees that can be enumerated, together with many exotic ones, found places in this new beauty spot. It is even said that the owner bought out two nurseries to get enough material. Although at that time houses were few and far between, yet the owner soon found that men and boys would come and cut down some of his largest trees for firewood or other purposes, and the evergreens, probably, for Christmas trees. To stop this he erected an eight-foot barbed wire fence around the tract of eighty acres, which is now between Chicago Avenue and Division Street, north and south, and between Lathrop and Park Avenues, east and west. Several men were employed summer and winter to keep the place in order. A house and barn are in the center of the tract. All this has now, after a quarter of a century, resulted in as fine a private park and botanical garden, so to say, as can be imagined, as idyllic a spot as can be made away from hills or mountains and in the absence of brook, pond or lake. For perfectly idyllic conditions of scenery these are undoubtedly indispensable. In May and June especially the many species of *spirea*, *lonicera*, lilac,

*viburnum*, *forsythia*, barberry, Japanese quince, and many others bloom at their best and waft their fragrance through the air; when the buck-eye and catalpa illuminate the foliage with their exquisite candelabra of white and vie for first place in the race of beauty with double-flowering cherries and crab-apples, with the lovely pink of the red bud or Judas tree flaming up in between, it is certainly an aspect of fairy-like beauty.

Then also the birds are at their best. For the selfsame fence that has proved the salvation of the trees and bushes in the fairy garden, has likewise kept out men and boys with guns, and the house cat is also practically unknown. This gives the birds the privacy and security, which they cherish so much; furthermore, the many fruiting shrubs and trees supply all necessary food for those that care to stay. While the number of migrants, though large enough, is not as large as it would be if the Desplains River, with its wooded banks and its south and north course were not so near, the number of nesting birds is abnormally large. A census of them made June 3d had the following results: Six Bluebirds, 8 Robins, 18 Brown Thrashers, 8 Catbirds, 11 Field Sparrows, 2 Song Sparrows, 4 English Sparrows, 1 Goldfinch, 4 Cowbirds, 5 Baltimore Orioles, 3 Meadowlarks, 4 Bobolinks (near the north fence, where large pastures adjoin), 1 Nighthawk, 10 Flickers, 1 Red-headed Woodpecker, 6 Blue Jays, 1 Crow, 5 Wood Pewees, 1 Red-eyed Vireo, 4 Chimney Swifts, 6 Mourning Doves, and 1 Pheasant (probably Mongolian), a total of 108 pairs. While in some cases the same bird may have been counted twice, or in others, as in the Doves, both birds of a pair counted, yet I feel convinced that the result is rather below the truth than above. Undoubtedly there are more Redheads, Vireo, Crows and Blue Jays nesting than we counted; probably also more Goldfinches, and I think Indigo Buntings, Cuckoos and Cedar Waxwings have added themselves later to the list. Besides, we saw a Willow Thrush, an Olive-sided Flycatcher and a Woodcock, which did not nest there, as likely also as not the Nighthawk and the Pheasant. On the morning in question, we also did not see

Bachman's Sparrow, of which a pair or two were here and no doubt bred, having been seen by the writer repeatedly from May 9th to July 2d.

Professor W. W. Cooke, of Washington, writes me that the number of nesting birds for "Waller's Park" is higher than the average for this vicinity. This shows again what protection does for birds, unintentional even as it was and is in this case. I may add that the method used in getting the above result was the one advocated by the Biological Survey of the Department of Agriculture at Washington, viz. several observers went through the tract, beginning at 6 o'clock in the morning until finished, walking in parallel lines, the supposition being that at that time of the year and in that part of the day the birds seen will be males—as was borne out by this census in the case of those species in which the sexes can readily be told—and each male representing a breeding pair.

River Forest, Illinois.

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### FIVE HOURS ON BUTLER'S LAKE, LAKE COUNTY, ILL.

BY WALTER A. GOELITZ.

This lake covers from thirty to forty acres and is surrounded by a few wood-lots, pastures, house yards, and a public road. The margin is shallow and swampy, with cat-tails and reeds extending in from twenty to two hundred feet from the hilly ground surrounding the lake. The birds of Butler's Lake are protected the year around and for that reason many can be found there that are scarce or wholly wanting in similar regions in Lake County.

I spent only two hours there on my first trip on July 2, 1915, but had the good luck to find twelve nests. The first of these nests was that of a Yellow-headed Blackbird and contained three eggs. This was a find of some note to me, for not only was it the first of its kind I have ever found, but also because Butler's Lake is the only place in Lake County where these blackbirds breed. In the extensive Skokie Marsh,